



LIPS THAT WERE SEALED

BY ALMA MARTIN ESTADROCK
AUTHOR OF "MY COUSIN PATRICK"

SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I.—The story opens with a scene at a box party. Miss Henrietta Winstanley, sister of Bishop Winstanley, is seated next to Dan Hemingway, whose brother Dan was in his employ. Dan was one of the town's popular young men. Dan suggested some conversation when Attorney Tom Twining told him Barbara refused Anky.

CHAPTER II.—Anky, the following day, in the presence of Twining, accused Dan of leaving the bank. Twining refused to prosecute. Barbara persuaded Anky to postpone starting prosecution.

CHAPTER III.—Twining learned of the engagement of Anky and Barbara. He congratulated both. Barbara, however, was disappointed. She told him she was not interested in him.

CHAPTER IV.—He visited Miss Hemingway and found her almost in tears. He told her he had loved her, but feared she would not love him. Barbara, however, was not interested in him.

CHAPTER V.—Twining learned of the engagement of Anky and Barbara. He congratulated both. Barbara, however, was disappointed. She told him she was not interested in him.

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tainly a most estimable person, or—think I may truthfully say—the most original and startling ideas, particularly as to—well, we shall touch upon that later. Mrs. Dines has long been a friend of my sister's."

"Ah, so I recall," I interrupted. Mrs. Dines was the widow whom I heard Miss Winstanley speak of to the bishop the evening at the opera when his glasses had been so persistently leveled where she thought they ought not to be. I imagine something interesting was about to be unfolded, but I was in no way prepared for what came.

"You have—ah, seen Mrs. Dines?" the bishop asked.

"Once," said I; "a somewhat staid lady with opinions."

"Oh," he said, "she is a very good friend of mine."

"Dear me," said I.

The bishop nodded solemnly.

"A trifle elderly," I ventured, encouraged by something in his eyes.

"A trifle," she is 60."

"Ah, is it possible?"

"Mrs. Dines admits 60," he replied.

"She may be more. But 60 is enough."

I nodded, not quite understanding and waiting for that which I knew would make it plain.

"Mrs. Dines is a lady of very large means and equally generous inclinations," he continued.

"A woman who has done much good and should continue to do more. Charitable work is her passion. She is an enthusiast along that particular line. My sister trusts in her a most beautiful and commendable character."

"I have often heard her called so."

"There are undoubtedly many admirable things about the lady."

"As a young woman I imagine she may have been attractive," I ventured, watching the bishop out of the tail of my eye.

"As a young woman," he repeated.

"And clever," said I.

He smiled. "She is still clever enough," he commented.

There was a long pause, during which his shapely fingers caressed the tassel of his dressing gown.

"Mrs. Dines is in Africa at present," he continued. "She says she desires to remain there indefinitely. Wishing to further to its utmost the work she has undertaken, and to be entirely un-

hampered and unharassed by restrictions, she has sent this most remarkable proposition to my sister, who in turn has forwarded it and sent it on to me with all promptness. I wish you to tell me what you think of it, sir."

He handed me a decorative-looking document, which I opened with much interest. It was exceedingly direct and simple—as unadorned and simple as the lady who had initiated it. Mrs. Anson Dines, for the privilege of using the powerful name of Bishop Charles Winstanley, would dedicate her undivided effort and her undivided fortune to the church which the bishop so brilliantly adorned, especially to that portion of it which she had taken under her special care and loving direction, there in a country so far from her home. The marriage should be performed by proxy, and Bishop Winstanley should continue, then and always, at perfect liberty to pursue his own helpful and shining career in his own land, and in his own manner, quite as if she did not bear his name.

I finished what was so curiously and so plainly set forth, and looked up to meet the bishop's questioning eyes.

"A most remarkable document," I observed.

"But could such a thing be done. Mr. Twining?"

"Certainly, sir. It would be as binding as one you yourself would perform, with the parties kneeling at your own altar and all the usual and fashionable formulae employed."

"I was in doubt as to its legality—the numerous technical phrases that might ensue."

"It is quite within the sanction of the law."

"A trifle irregular, however."

"Under certain conditions one might

except the irregularity," I suggested. The bishop flushed delicately beneath the light of his candles. A frown drew across his smooth forehead.

"Then there is no reason why the arrangement suggested by Mrs. Dines might not be carried out?" he asked.

"There is some offered by the law, Bishop Winstanley," I replied.

"Upon my soul, I wish you could have apprised me of some technical objection, Mr. Twining; I do indeed," he exclaimed.

I lifted my brows.

"Because there is a very good reason, outside the law, why no such absurd arrangement should be entered into."

"I should be interested to hear it if you feel disposed to speak of it," I said politely. I was in reality consumed to know what it was.

"I believe you legal men are considered deep wells into which all sorts of trouble and embarrassment may be safely poured," he remarked.

"The reason will be safe with me if you care to intrust it to me, sir."

He smiled a charming smile.

"It is very simple," he said; "I do not wish to marry the lady."

"Then why on earth do you consider it?" I cried.

"Bless your soul, I do not," he chuckled.

"But I thought—"

"I may have given you the impression, Frankly, I am somewhat disturbed to know just the way out of the absurd position in which the lady encouraged doubtless by my sister has put me. It is not an easy thing to decline even such an alliance as she suggests, sir. I dare say you have had no experience—for which you may thank your stars. It is only fair, perhaps, to admit that the ladies have one ground for thinking I would not be entirely unwilling to enter into such an astonishing plan. To begin with, I am 45 years old—old enough to have thought of matrimony if I ever expected to. Perhaps the fact that I have not thought of it has encouraged my sister and Mrs. Dines to assume that I do not mean to do so. Hence they have frankly suggested it to me. Then I have always been an admirer of Mrs. Dines, who, as I have said, is an admirable woman, and in years my senior, and they have probably considered my admiration to be devoid of reverence, which is not the case. There are besides these reasons others which I need not mention to you, not to speak of the financial one, which, in her real for her charities, my sister has not overlooked. But I cannot consider any of them. I sent for you hoping you would tell me that the illegality of such a step would put it out of the question. But since you cannot help me, I must find a way of my own."

I smiled and held out my hand.

"I am more sorry than I can tell to have failed you," I said; "but I haven't a doubt that, left to your own devices, you will get delicately and safely out of the matter."

He smiled back at me, retaining my hand.

"I think you know my sister, do you not?" he suggested, and there was a twinkle in his eyes exactly like that I recalled so vividly in Miss Winstanley's.

"I have the pleasure of knowing her very well," I said.

"She is a wonderful woman," he declared.

I bowed.

"Did you ever have an elder sister, Mr. Twining?" he inquired.

I regretted that I had never been so blessed.

"Ah," said he, "that accounts for your not being an attorney general or a chief justice," and he smilingly bowed me out.

CHAPTER VI.

"Mr. Hemingway is in the sitting room," I linked up into the reposed confidence of my faithful and imperturbable Kimmens, who stood above my bed, a lighted candle in his hand, its rays over his ruddy face and ruddier pajamas.

"Mr. Hemingway?" I repeated in sleepy amazement.

"Mr. Dan Hemingway; yes, sir."

"What time is it?"

"A little past two, Mr. Hemingway just came in by train, I think."

"Bless me! Well, go to bed, Kimmens. I won't need you. I'll go right in, tell Mr. Hemingway."

Kimmens went with dignity and fluttering garments.

As I hurried in Dan looked up at me from a chair in which he had sunk in an odd heap.

"Sick, Dan?" I asked.

"Sick to death—at heart," he groaned.

"What's the matter?"

"He wheeled on me sharply. 'You know all about it, don't you—what I did, you know?'"

I stopped to light the gas in my grate.

"Yes, I know, old fellow."

There was an instant's silence.

"Did Anky tell you?"

"Yes."

"He made Barbara believe no one knew."

"He told me before that. I'm sure he hasn't told any one else. You may depend on that, I think. He wanted—"

"I know. I'm a nice sort, ain't I? What do you think of me?" he sneered.

"I think you may have been a bit weak, but that there's a bully lot of strength in you yet and that it's going to assert itself. That's what I think," and I stretched out my hand.

He gripped it absently. "Do you know what made Anky change his mind about the prosecution?" he asked.

(To Be Continued.)

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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.
Not coal land.
Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Santa Fe, N. M., Aug. 14, 1909.
Notice is hereby given that Thomas T. Jones, of Rio Arriba, N. M., who, on Feb. 23, 1908, made Homestead Entry No. 10228, for a 1/4 section 14, Township 2 N., Range 24 E., S. 10 R. Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make Final Commutation Proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before W. M. Weddington, U. S. Commr., at Rio Arriba, N. M., on Oct. 15, 1909.

Claimant names as witnesses: Charles Wainey, Charles E. Turner, Walter Weddington, Thomas Kennedy; all of Rio Arriba, N. M.

MANUEL R. ORTIZ, Register.
First Aug 14—last Sep 15

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.
Not coal land.
Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Santa Fe, N. M., Aug. 14, 1909.
Notice is hereby given that Ann R. Marshall, of Salado, N. M., who, on Nov. 10, 1908, made Homestead Entry No. 10411, for a 1/4 section 11, Township 2 N., Range 24 E., S. 10 R. Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make Final Commutation Proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before W. M. Weddington, U. S. Commr., at Rio Arriba, N. M., on Oct. 15, 1909.

Claimant names as witnesses: Charles Wainey, Charles E. Turner, Walter Weddington, Thomas Kennedy; all of Rio Arriba, N. M.

MANUEL R. ORTIZ, Register.
First Aug 14—last Sep 15

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.
Not coal land.
Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Santa Fe, N. M., Aug. 14, 1909.
Notice is hereby given that Henry M. Hanson, of Rio Arriba, N. M., who, on March 11, 1908, made Homestead Entry No. 10307, for a 1/4 section 14, Township 2 N., Range 24 E., S. 10 R. Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make Final Commutation Proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before W. M. Weddington, U. S. Commr., at Rio Arriba, N. M., on Oct. 15, 1909.

Claimant names as witnesses: Charles Wainey, Charles E. Turner, Walter Weddington, Thomas Kennedy; all of Rio Arriba, N. M.

MANUEL R. ORTIZ, Register.
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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.
Not coal land.
Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Santa Fe, N. M., Aug. 14, 1909.
Notice is hereby given that John M. Hanson, of Rio Arriba, N. M., who, on May 7, 1908, made Homestead Entry No. 10292, Serial No. 10714, for a 1/4 section 14, Township 2 N., Range 24 E., S. 10 R. Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make Final Commutation Proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before W. M. Weddington, U. S. Commr., at Rio Arriba, N. M., on Oct. 15, 1909.

Claimant names as witnesses: Charles Wainey, Charles E. Turner, Walter Weddington, Thomas Kennedy; all of Rio Arriba, N. M.

T. C. TILLOTSON, Register.
First Aug 14—last Sep 15

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.
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Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Santa Fe, N. M., Aug. 14, 1909.
Notice is hereby given that Philip P. Kinley, of Buchanan, N. M., who, on April 9, 1908, made Homestead Entry No. 1470, Serial No. 10727, for a 1/4 section 14, Township 2 N., Range 24 E., S. 10 R. Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make Final Commutation Proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before W. M. Weddington, U. S. Commr., at Rio Arriba, N. M., on Oct. 15, 1909.

Claimant names as witnesses: John M. Pender, Hattie P. Pender, Claude Beckett, Nicholas W. Merichson; all of Buchanan, N. M.

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